



ECEAP

WASHINGTON STATE'S



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
AND
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Preschool for low-income and at-risk children in Washington State

Early Childhood IS Early Education

Children are born learning. By the time they reach traditional school age, crucial developments will have taken place in everything from the structure of their brain to their social and emotional well being. Early Childhood Education (ECE) is a natural outgrowth of these developments. Quality ECE programs such as ECEAP:

- ◆ Focus on strengths and growth of the “whole child” within a caring climate and educational setting. A “whole child” approach recognizes that social, emotional, physical, and cognitive factors are all connected in a child’s development.
- ◆ Foster experiences and implement teaching and learning strategies through age-appropriate environments and curricula that are centered on, and reflect, the participating children’s interests and lives.
- ◆ Consider social development of children to be knowledge construction, instead of instruction, within a natural environment that enhances active exploration, concrete multi-sensory experiences, and integrated curricula goals.
- ◆ Affirm the positive role of parents as primary educators of their children and recognize that their continued involvement is very important to their child’s current and future learning and development.
- ◆ Recognize that children learn and/or develop with “...many significant differences in cognitive, social, physical, and motor skills.” (*U.S. Department of Education, 2000*)
- ◆ Promote responsive interactions between children and adults to “...nurture young children’s dispositions to learn and their emerging abilities.” (*National Research Council, 2000*)
- ◆ Develop and extend children’s natural capabilities in learning, experimenting, and exploring in order to incorporate them in reading, mathematics, science, literature, social studies, and other subjects.

ECEAP: Ready to Succeed!